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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

SPOKANE RIVERKEEPER,

Plaintiff,

NO.

V.

DARIGOLD, INC.,

Defendant.

I. INTRODUCTION

18 1. This action is a citizen suit brought under Section 505 of the Clean
19 Water Act (“CWA”) as amended, 33 U.S.C. § 1365. Plaintiff, Spokane Riverkeeper
20 (“Riverkeeper”), seeks a declaratory judgment, injunctive relief, the imposition of
21 civil penalties, and the award of costs, including attorneys’ and expert witness fees,
22 for defendant Darigold d/b/a Inland Northwest Dairies (“Defendant” or “Darigold”)
23 repeated and ongoing violations of Sections 301(a) and 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C.
24 §§ 1311(a) and 1342, and the terms and conditions of the National Pollutant
25

COMPLAINT - 1

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Discharge Elimination System (“NPDES”) permit authorizing discharges of pollutants from Defendant’s facility to navigable waters.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction under Section 505(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a). The relief requested herein is authorized by 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(d) and 1365(a).

3. In accordance with Section 505(b)(1)(A) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(b)(1)(A), Riverkeeper notified Defendant of Defendant's violations of the CWA and of Riverkeeper's intent to sue under the CWA by letter dated and postmarked September 11, 2018 ("Notice Letter"). A copy of the Notice Letter is attached to this complaint as Exhibit 1. The allegations in the Notice Letter are incorporated herein by this reference. In accordance with 33 U.S.C. § 1365(b)(1)(A) and 40 C.F.R. § 135.2(a)(1), Riverkeeper provided copies of the Notice Letter to Defendant's Registered Agent, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("USEPA"), the Administrator of USEPA Region 10, and the Director of the Washington Department of Ecology ("WDOE") by mailing copies to these individuals on September 11, 2018.

4. At the time of the filing of this Complaint, more than sixty (60) days have passed since the Notice Letter and copies thereof were issued in the manner described in the preceding paragraph.

1 5. The violations complained of in the Notice Letter are continuing or are
2 reasonably likely to re-occur. Defendant is in violation of its NPDES permit and the
3 CWA.
4

9 7. The source of the violations complained of is located in Spokane
10 County, Washington, within the Eastern District of Washington, and venue is
11 therefore appropriate in the Eastern District of Washington under Section 505(c)(1)
12 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(c)(1).
13

III. PARTIES

16 8. Plaintiff, Spokane Riverkeeper, is suing on behalf of itself and its
17 member(s). Riverkeeper is a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the
18 State of Washington. Riverkeeper is a membership organization and has at least one
19 member who is injured by Defendant's violations. Riverkeeper is dedicated to
20 protecting and preserving the environment of Washington State, specifically the
21 Spokane River and its tributaries.
22

24 9. Plaintiff has representational standing to bring this action. Spokane
25 Riverkeeper's members are reasonably concerned about the effects of discharges of
26 pollutants, including stormwater from Defendant's facility, on aquatic species and

COMPLAINT - 3

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1 wildlife that Plaintiff's members observe, study, and enjoy. Riverkeeper's members
 2 are further concerned about the effects of discharges from Defendant's facility on
 3 human health. In addition, discharges from Defendant's facility lessen Riverkeeper's
 4 members' aesthetic enjoyment of nearby areas. Riverkeeper has members who live,
 5 work, fish, and recreate around the Spokane River and are affected by Defendant's
 6 discharges. Riverkeeper's members' concerns about the effects of Defendant's
 7 discharges are aggravated by Defendant's failure to record and timely report
 8 information about its discharges and pollution controls. The recreational, scientific,
 9 economic, aesthetic and/or health interest of Spokane Riverkeeper and its members
 10 have been, are being, and will be adversely affected by Defendant's violations of the
 11 CWA. The relief sought in this lawsuit can redress the injuries to these interests.
 12
 13
 14
 15

16 10. Riverkeeper has organizational standing to bring this action.
 17 Riverkeeper has been actively engaged in a variety of educational and advocacy
 18 efforts to improve water quality and to address sources of water quality degradation
 19 in the waters of eastern Washington, including the Spokane River and its tributaries.
 20
 21 Darigold has failed to fulfill monitoring, recordkeeping, reporting and planning
 22 requirements, among others, necessary for compliance with its NPDES permit and
 23 the CWA. As a result, Riverkeeper is deprived of information necessary to properly
 24 serve its members by providing information and taking appropriate action to advance
 25 its mission. Riverkeeper's efforts to educate and advocate for greater environmental
 26

1 protection, and to ensure the success of environmental restoration projects
 2 implemented for the benefit of its members are also precluded. Finally, Riverkeeper
 3 and the public are deprived of information that influences members of the public to
 4 become members of Riverkeeper, thereby reducing Riverkeeper's membership
 5 numbers. Thus, Riverkeeper's organizational interests have been adversely affected
 6 by Darigold's violations. These injuries are fairly traceable to Darigold's violations
 7 and are redressable by the Court.

10 11. Darigold is a corporation authorized to conduct business under the laws
 11 of the State of Washington.

13 12. Darigold owns and operates a large dairy processing facility located at
 14 or about 35 East Francis Ave., Spokane, WA 99203, and contiguous and/or adjacent
 15 properties (the "facility").

17 IV. LEGAL BACKGROUND

18 13. Section 301(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), prohibits the discharge
 19 of pollutants by any person, unless in compliance with the provisions of the CWA.
 20 Section 301(a) prohibits, inter alia, such discharges not authorized by, or in violation
 21 of, the terms of a NPDES permit issued pursuant to Section 402 of the CWA, 33
 22 U.S.C. § 1342.

25 14. The State of Washington has established a federally approved state
 26 NPDES program administered by the WDOE. Wash. Rev. Code § 90.48.260; Wash.

1 Admin. Code ch. 173-220. This program was approved by the Administrator of the
 2 USEPA pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 1342(b).
 3

4 15. The WDOE has repeatedly issued the Industrial Stormwater General
 5 Permit (“Permit”) under Section 402(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(a), most
 6 recently on October 21, 2009, effective January 1, 2010, modified May 16, 2012 (the
 7 “2010 Permit”), and on December 3, 2014, effective January 2, 2015 (the “2015
 8 Permit”). The 2010 Permit and the 2015 Permit (collectively, “the Permits”) contain
 9 substantially similar requirements and authorize those that obtain coverage
 10 thereunder to discharge stormwater associated with industrial activity, a pollutant
 11 under the CWA, and other pollutants contained in the stormwater to the waters of the
 12 State subject to certain terms and conditions.
 13

14 16. The Permits impose certain terms and conditions on those covered
 15 thereby, including monitoring and sampling of discharges, reporting and
 16 recordkeeping requirements, as well as restrictions on the quality of stormwater
 17 discharges. To reduce and eliminate pollutant concentrations in stormwater
 18 discharges, the Permits require, among other things, that permittees develop and
 19 implement best management practices (“BMPs”) and a Stormwater Pollution
 20 Prevention Plan (“SWPPP”), and apply all known and reasonable methods of
 21 prevention, control, and treatment (“AKART”) to discharges. The specific terms and
 22 conditions of the Permits are described in detail in the Notice Letter. *See Exhibit 1.*
 23

V. FACTS

17. Darigold filed applications with the WDOE for coverage under the Permits. WDOE granted Darigold coverage under the 2010 permit, effective January 1, 2010, under Permit Number WAR-301800. WDOE granted Darigold coverage under the 2015 Permit under the same permit number.

18. Darigold's facility discharges stormwater associated with industrial activity to the Spokane River.

19. Darigold's facility is engaged in industrial action and is approximately 7 acres, which are primarily paved. The facility has at least one known outfall that discharges to a storm water conveyance system that discharges to the Spokane River.

20. Darigold has violated the Permits and Sections 301(a) and 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311(a) and 1342, by discharging pollutants not in compliance with an NPDES Permit. Darigold's violations of the Permits and the CWA are set forth in sections I through V of the Notice Letter attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and are incorporated herein by this reference. In particular and among the other violations described in the Notice Letter, Darigold has violated the Permits by failing to implement AKART, failing to implement BMPs to control stormwater quality, failing to timely complete adaptive management responses required by the Permits, failing to timely submit complete and accurate reports, and permitting illicit discharges to occur.

1 21. Darigold has discharged stormwater containing levels of pollutants that
 2 exceed the benchmark values established by the Permits from its outfall, including
 3 on the days on which Darigold collected samples with the results identified in Table
 4 below:

Date or period of sample	Pollutant	Permit Benchmark	Sample concentration (or average) exceeding benchmark
2014 2nd Quarter	Turbidity	< 25 ug/L	33 ug/L
2014 4th Quarter	Turbidity	< 25 ug/L	489 ug/L
2014 4th Quarter	Zinc	< 117 ug/L	237 ug/L
2014 4th Quarter	Phosphorous	< 2 mg/L	5600 mg/L
2015 1st Quarter	Turbidity	< 25 ug/L	126 ug/L
2015 4th Quarter	Turbidity	< 25 ug/L	60.5 ug/L
2016 1st Quarter	Turbidity	< 25 ug/L	31.8 ug/L
2016 2nd Quarter	Turbidity	< 25 ug/L	44.9 ug/L
2017 2nd Quarter	Nitrate + Nitrite	< .68 ug/L	1.047 ug/L
2017 2nd Quarter	Oil & Grease	Yes/No	Yes
June 15, 2017	Zinc	< 117 ug/L	225 ug/L
2017 3rd Quarter	Turbidity	< 25 ug/L	33.1 ug/L
2017 3rd Quarter	Zinc	< 117 ug/L	259 ug/L
2017 4th Quarter	Total BOD5	< 30 ug/L	145.15 ug/L
2017 4th Quarter	Turbidity	< 25 ug/L	37.1 ug/L
2018 1st Quarter	Zinc	< 117 ug/L	461 ug/L
2018 1st Quarter	Copper	< 32 ug/L	51.4 ug/L
2018 1st Quarter	Turbidity	< 25 ug/L	744 ug/L
2018 2nd Quarter	Oil & Grease	Yes/No	Yes
2018 2nd Quarter	Total BOD5	< 30 ug/L	75.6 ug/L
2018 2nd Quarter	Turbidity	< 25 ug/L	32.5 ug/L

22 22. Darigold's exceedances of the benchmark values indicate that Darigold
 23 is failing to apply AKART to its discharges and/or is failing to implement an adequate
 24 SWPPP and BMPs. Upon information and belief, Darigold violated the Permits by
 25 not developing, modifying, and/or implementing BMPs and a SWPPP in accordance

1 with the requirements of the Permits, and/or by not applying AKART to discharges
 2 from the facility. These requirements and Darigold's violations thereof are described
 3 in detail in section III of the Notice Letter, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and are
 4 incorporated herein by this reference.
 5

6 23. Darigold has not conducted and/or completed the corrective action
 7 responses as required by the Permits. These requirements of the Permits and
 8 Darigold's violations thereof are described in section III of the Notice Letter, attached
 9 hereto as Exhibit 1, and are incorporated herein by this reference.
 10

11 24. Condition S8.B of the Permits require a permittee to undertake a Level
 12 1 corrective action whenever it exceeds a benchmark value identified in Condition
 13 S5. A Level 1 corrective action comprises review of the SWPPP to ensure permit
 14 compliance, revisions to the SWPPP to include additional operational source control
 15 BMPs with the goal of achieving the applicable benchmark values in future
 16 discharges, signature and certification of the revised SWPPP, summary of the Level
 17 1 corrective action in the annual report, and full implementation of the revised
 18 SWPPP as soon as possible, but no later than the DMR due date for the quarter the
 19 benchmark was exceeded. Condition S8.A of the 2015 Permit requires that the
 20 permittee implement any Level 1 corrective action required by the 2010 Permit.
 21

22 25. Darigold triggered Level 1 corrective action requirements for each
 23 benchmark exceedance identified in Table 1 above. Darigold has violated the
 24

1 requirements of the Permits described above by failing to conduct a Level 1
 2 corrective action in accordance with Permit conditions, including the required
 3 review, revision, and certification of the SWPPP, the required implementation of
 4 additional BMPs, and the required summarization in the annual report, each time
 5 since April 1, 2014, that its quarterly stormwater sampling results were greater than
 6 a benchmark, including the benchmark excursions listed in Table 1 above. These
 7 corrective action requirements and Darigold's violations thereof are described in
 8 section III.A.2 of the Notice Letter, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and are incorporated
 9 herein by this reference.

13 26. Condition S8.C of the Permits require a permittee to undertake a Level
 14 2 corrective action whenever it exceeds a benchmark value identified in Condition
 15 S5 during any two quarters during a calendar year. A Level 2 corrective action
 16 comprises review of the SWPPP to ensure permit compliance, revisions to the
 17 SWPPP to include additional structural source control BMPs with the goal of
 18 achieving the applicable benchmark values in future discharges, signature and
 19 certification of the revised SWPPP, summary of the Level 2 corrective action in the
 20 annual report, and full implementation of the revised SWPPP as soon as possible, but
 21 no later than August 31st of the year following the triggering of the Level 2 corrective
 22 action. Condition S8.A of the 2015 Permit requires that the permittee implement any
 23 Level 2 corrective action required by the 2010 Permit.

1 27. Darigold triggered Level 2 corrective action requirements for each
 2 benchmark exceedance identified in Table 1 above that occurred in any two quarters
 3 of a calendar year. Darigold has violated the requirements of the Permits described
 4 above by failing to conduct a Level 2 corrective action in accordance with Permit
 5 conditions, including the required review, revision, and certification of the SWPPP,
 6 the required implementation of additional structural source control BMPs, and the
 7 required summarization in the annual report, each time since November 3, 2011, that
 8 its quarterly stormwater sampling results were greater than a benchmark, for any two
 9 quarters during a calendar year, including the benchmark excursions listed in Table
 10 1 above. These violations include, but are not limited to, Darigold's failure to fulfill
 11 these obligations for turbidity triggered by its stormwater sampling during calendar
 12 years 2014, 2015, 2017, and 2018; and for zinc triggered by its stormwater sampling
 13 during calendar years 2017. These corrective action requirements and Darigold's
 14 violations thereof are described in section III.A.3 of the Notice Letter, attached hereto
 15 as Exhibit 1, and are incorporated herein by this reference.

16 28. Condition S8.D of the Permits require a permittee to undertake a Level
 17 3 corrective action whenever it exceeds a benchmark value identified in Condition
 18 S5 during any three quarters during a calendar year or when a permittee decides to
 19 skip a Level 2 corrective action and implement a Level 3 corrective action. A Level
 20 3 corrective action comprises review of the SWPPP to ensure permit compliance,

1 revisions to the SWPPP to include additional treatment BMPs and operational and/or
 2 structural source control BMPs if necessary, with the goal of achieving the applicable
 3 benchmark values in future discharges, signature and certification of the revised
 4 SWPPP, summary of the Level 3 corrective action in the annual report, and full
 5 implementation of the revised SWPPP as soon as possible, but no later than
 6 September 30th of the year following the triggering of the Level 3 corrective action.
 7 Condition S8.D also requires that before implementation of any BMPs that require
 8 site-specific design or sizing of structures, equipment, or processes, that the permittee
 9 submit an engineering report, plans, and specifications, and an operations and
 10 maintenance manual to WDOE for review, which must be submitted no later than
 11 May 15th prior to the Level 3 corrective action deadline. Condition S8.A of the 2015
 12 Permit requires that the permittee implement any Level 3 corrective action required
 13 by the 2010 Permit.
 14

15 29. Darigold triggered Level 3 corrective action requirements for zinc, as
 16 detailed in its 2017 annual report. Darigold has violated the requirements of the
 17 Permits described above by failing to conduct a Level 3 corrective action in
 18 accordance with Permit conditions, including the required review, revision, and
 19 certification of the SWPPP, the required implementation of additional BMPs, the
 20 required submission of an engineering report and operations and maintenance
 21 manual, and the required summarization in the annual report. These corrective action
 22

1 requirements and Darigold's violations thereof are described in section III.A.4 of the
 2 Notice Letter, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and are incorporated herein by this
 3 reference.
 4

5 30. Condition S9.B of the Permits requires Darigold to submit an accurate
 6 and complete annual report to WDOE no later than May 15th of each year that
 7 includes specific information. Darigold has violated these requirements. Darigold
 8 violated this condition by failing to include all of the required information in the
 9 annual reports it submitted for years 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017. These annual report
 10 requirements and Darigold's violations thereof are described in section III of the
 11 Notice Letter, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and are incorporated herein by this
 12 reference.
 13

14 31. Condition S3.A of the Permits requires Darigold to develop and
 15 implement a SWPPP as specified. Darigold has violated these requirements by
 16 failing to maintain, develop, and implement a SWPPP in keeping with the
 17 requirements of the Permits, as detailed in section III.B of the Notice Letter, attached
 18 hereto as Exhibit 1.
 19

20 32. A significant penalty should be imposed against Darigold under the
 21 penalty factors set forth in 33 U.S.C. § 1319(d).
 22

23 33. Darigold's violations were avoidable had Darigold been diligent in
 24 overseeing facility operations and maintenance.
 25

34. Darigold benefited economically as a consequence of its violations and failure to implement improvements at the facility.

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

35. The preceding paragraphs and the allegations in sections I through V of the Notice Letter, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, are incorporated herein.

36. Darigold's violations of its NPDES permits described herein and in the Notice Letter constitute violations of Sections 301 and 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311 and 1342, and violations of "effluent standard(s) or limitation(s)" as defined by Section 505 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365.

37. Upon information and belief, the violations committed by Darigold are ongoing or are reasonably likely to continue to occur. Any and all additional violations of the Permits and the CWA which occur after those described in Riverkeeper's Notice Letter but before a final decision in this action should be considered continuing violations subject to this Complaint.

38. Without the imposition of appropriate civil penalties and the issuance of an injunction, Darigold is likely to continue to violate the Permits and the CWA to the further injury of Riverkeeper, its members, and others.

39. A copy of this Complaint will be served upon the Attorney General of the United States and the Administrator of the USEPA as required by 33 U.S.C. § 1365(c)(3).

VII. RELIEF REQUESTED

Wherefore, Spokane Riverkeeper respectfully requests that this Court grant the following relief:

A. Issue a declaratory judgment that Darigold has violated and continues to be in violation of the Permits and Sections 301 and 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311 and 1342;

B. Enjoin Darigold from operating the facility in a manner that results in further violations of the Permits or the CWA;

C. Order Darigold to immediately implement a SWPPP that is in compliance with the Permits;

D. Order Darigold to allow Riverkeeper to participate in the development and implementation of Darigold's SWPPP;

E. Order Darigold to provide Riverkeeper, for a period beginning on the date of the Court's Order and running for two years after Darigold achieves compliance with all of the conditions of the Permits, with copies of all reports and other documents which Darigold submits to the USEPA or to the WDOE regarding Darigold's coverage under the Permit at the time those documents are submitted to these agencies;

F. Order Darigold to take specific actions to remediate the environmental harm caused by its violations;

1 G. Grant such other preliminary and/or permanent injunctive relief as
2 Riverkeeper may from time to time request during the pendency of this case;
3

4 H. Order Darigold to pay civil penalties of \$37,500.00 per day of violation
5 for each violation committed by Darigold through November 2, 2015 and to pay
6 \$53,484 per day of violation for each violation committed by Darigold after
7 November 2, 2015 pursuant to Sections 309(d) and 505(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§
8 1319(d) and 1365(a), and 40 C.F.R. § 19 and 19.4;

9 I. Award Riverkeeper its litigation expenses, including reasonable
10 attorneys' and expert witness fees, as authorized by Section 505(d) of the CWA, 33
11 U.S.C. § 1365(d); and

12 J. Award such other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

13 Dated this 15th day of November, 2018.

14 Respectfully submitted,

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